
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2018

Fiscal Services Division

December 13, 2017



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Scale and Motor Vehicle Facilities Maintenance — Road Use Tax Fund

Purpose and History

The Scale and Motor Vehicle Maintenance appropriation is used to maintain weigh scales and driver's license stations across Iowa. Funds are used for capital improvements. This appropriation supports maintenance at 30 Motor Vehicle Division facilities. This includes 12 scale enforcement facilities and 18 driver's license stations throughout the State. A map displaying all of the driver's license stations managed by the Department of Transportation (DOT) is available at the link below.

National weight standards apply to commercial vehicle use on the U.S. Interstate Highway System. The U.S. system includes approximately 40,000 miles of highways across the nation. Legal load standards are intended to prevent vehicles from damaging highway roads and bridges. States may set their own commercial vehicle weight standards for roads not included in the Interstate Highway System. In Iowa, weight and vehicle size standards are enforced by the Iowa DOT Motor Vehicle Enforcement (MVE) Division through the operation of permanent weigh scale sites and portable weigh scales. In the past, the DOT has also received appropriations for scale replacement. Scale replacement appropriations are more intermittent. Since FY 2004, the General Assembly has made four appropriations to replace scales. The last appropriation for scale replacement was made in FY 2013.

Funding

Scale and Motor Vehicle Maintenance appropriations are made annually from the Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF). Since FY 2016, the Maintenance appropriation has been funded at \$300,000.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [321](#) and [321E](#)
Iowa Administrative Code [761—511](#)

More Information

Iowa DOT MVE Scale Locations: iowadot.gov/mvd/motorcarriers/scales.pdf
LSA Staff Contact: Michael Guanci (515.725.1286) michael.guanci@legis.iowa.gov